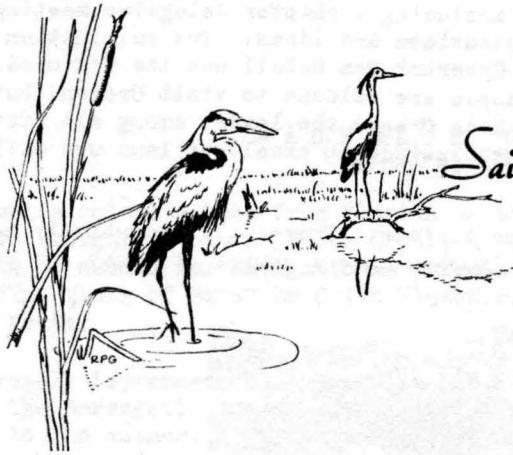




Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

Volume 40 Number 1

Summer 1973

REPORT FROM CONVENTION

There were two Governors, one Senator, and various other government officials, ranging from Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Nathaniel Reed, and National Water Commission Chairman, Charles Luce, to representatives from the National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. There were names which ring different bells like Roger Tory Peterson and Olin Sewall Pettingill. There was a squadron of Audubon Staff members with expertise in a wide variety of fields. And there were over a thousand common garden variety Audubon members representing many of the 301 chapters all over the country. (Anchorage Alaska was our 300th.)

This was the 67th Audubon Convention, held this year, June 8-11, in Denver Colorado, sponsored by a chapter which is only five years old. The format followed the usual arrangement of field trips (Friday and Monday) sandwiching two days of intensive meetings and work. It would be pleasant to linger on the delights of ptarmigan and rosy finches at the snow edges, 12,000 feet up off Trail Ridge Road, (only opened for traffic through Rocky Mountain Park two days earlier). Or, on the thrill of seeing nesting longspurs and mountain plover at the Pawnee National Grasslands. But, however exciting, this was not really what the convention was about.

We heard an address and progress report by our President, Elvis Stahr, Friday night. Some of the highlights from his report are being used as fillers in this issue of the Bulletin. Saturday morning began with an address by Governor John Love of Colorado, in which he discussed Colorado's many environmental problems, especially a land use bill which was being debated at that time in the legislature. His feeling was that whatever bill could be passed at that session would be inadequate, but at least it would be a start. This puts Colorado way ahead of Missouri which hasn't even started.

Senator Floyd Haskell, who was elected last fall in Colorado largely on environmental issues, spoke on his work with a comprehensive land use bill in the United States Senate. His basic thought was that although land use is the last environmental problem to be attacked, we must come to accept the concept that land ownership entails obligations to the public good. Space doesn't permit detailing all the features of Senate Bill 268 of the Interior Committee, but after hearing him I would urge Audubon members to write in support of it.

The third speaker of this stimulating morning was Mr. Luce. He gave many details of his work with the Water Commission whose final report was due on June 15th. Briefly the material falls into four fields: Navigation (the original consideration, but now of minor importance), Reclamation (again, a factor in our country's era of expansion, but now a somewhat outmoded concept), Flood Control (this became the dominant factor in the 1930's but here again our ideas of its values are changing) and Hydro-electricity, which has usually been ancillary to the other projects. Throughout his discussion Mr. Luce emphasized the necessity of shifting from mere development to consideration of environmental factors, and inter-relationship between land and water. He also emphasized, as did Luna Leopold in a recent St. Louis speech, that we are coming to realize that the days of the "free lunch" are over - that the beneficiary must pay.



There were three equally stimulating sessions, including a chapter delegates meeting Sunday afternoon which was positively bursting with enthusiasm and ideas. The culmination of the two days was the banquet Sunday night at which Governor Tom McCall was the featured speaker. McCall is well known for his suggestion that people are welcome to visit Oregon, but not to stay! Despite the inevitable opposition he has made Oregon the leader among all states in the environmental field. Some of the measures passed include an excellent land use bill and a ban on non-returnable bottles.

This report is long, and yet it barely skims the surface. There will undoubtedly be more about the convention in the Audubon Magazine. It should be a source of ideas and action for all of us.

M. C. W.



With this summer issue we are again enclosing material from another organization working in the field of conservation. The Wild Canid Survival and Research Center is based in St. Louis and many of its leaders are also members of Audubon.

One of our past features which is missing this time is a list of new members. With 155 since the last bulletin there were simply too many names for the space available. Welcome to you all -- and keep the ball rolling!

So - have a good summer. Paul Bauer's article suggests one activity you might consider, and so does the material on the highly successful photography workshops. And don't forget the very important issues in the environmental field. These are always with us.

See you in September. First wildlife film - September 28 at the Ethical Society. Details in Fall Bulletin. We will be looking for articles, so if you have anything please send it to the editor.

Mary C. Wiese -- 711 N. Taylor -- Kirkwood, Mo. -- 63122 -- Phone 965-2310.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONVENTION

** We've carried on the fight against the use of poisons for predator control. Our testimony has pointed out that synthetics, poor management and a host of other problems are causing wool growers far more problems than eagles and coyotes are.

** Using the kind of economics which business men and tax-payers understand, we pointed out in our campaign against stream channelization that when the real costs of channelization are toted up, many of these projects are big losers financially - as well as environmentally.

Executive Secretary

Mrs. Jay Rice
240 Blackmer Place
St. Louis Mo. 63119
Telephone 961-0895

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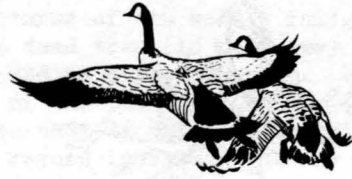
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BACHELOR GEESSE
Warren B. Lammert



Recently while motoring home from Florida we took a new route from Nashville to St. Louis. Highway 146 brought us by the Union County Wildlife Refuge in southern Illinois. When I was not driving or needed for navigational purposes, I spent my idle time reading a new book on Africa - "The Winds of Mara" by Colin Fletcher. It is a rather disturbing book, about contemporary Kenya.

I was extremely impressed, however, with his description of life in the vast refuge which lies near the Serengeti plains; particularly, a description of the family life of zebras, who, according to the author, have the most efficient social organization amongst the various animals that he had encountered. He felt that zebras run a tight ship, as compared to wildebeest and other antelopes, for each family is composed of a mature stallion and a number of mares, old and young. In addition, but not a part of it, is a bachelor herd of young male zebras, who are never intimate with the family - stay at some distance, but never far away. In fact, you might call them a boys' club.

Each family is composed of two parts, and although the plains might contain great numbers of animals, including huge numbers of zebras, each family is a distinct segment of the whole herd. Strangely enough, each unit has the same markings in their stripes, slightly different from other groups.

This same type of family life can be seen in the fall, in flocks of Canada geese. They usually consist of the parents and from four to six young geese, which were hatched in the Hudson Bay country and have flown down with the flocks through the Horicon Marsh, to southern Illinois.

As we drove into the refuge, the latter part of March, I expected to see very few geese, but was rather surprised to find over a thousand birds still on the refuge. I immediately thought that these must be cripples. It is always a depressing sight during the hunting season, when photographing in refuges, to see a cripple sailing in from the hunting clubs, with partially hurt wing or some other injury. These birds sometimes mend, or if they are too badly hurt, are taken by bald eagles which are in evidence at most refuges. Much to our delight, however, we found that most of these geese were young yearling males.

A resident biologist at the refuge told us that young ganders left, or were driven out of their families each spring, and as they don't mate until they are two years old, do not migrate north until May. We learned that the Canadas in southern Illinois nest south of Churchill on the western shore of Hudson Bay. Those in northwest Missouri, at Swan Lake or Squaw Creek, nest north of Churchill on the same side of the bay. It was interesting to find in the life story of the zebras a parallel in the breeding habits of Canada geese, each having its own bachelor groups.

The progress of geese is one of the few happy stories of waterfowl on the North American continent, nesting as they do beyond civilization. Now with good wildlife management, adequate wintering grounds and sane hunting regulations, geese of all species are making great strides in rebuilding their populations.

This has been done with funds from sportsmen - their licenses and duck stamps. More and more bird watchers are following hunters' lead by buying duck stamps or licenses, or both, to help the federal government and state conservation departments further their work in waterfowl management. Many of my non-shooting friends are supporting this great effort. I can't urge you enough to follow in their footsteps. It now seems certain that geese can withstand increased pressures, but other waterfowl have many problems to solve.



** We've testified, by invitation of Congressional committees, on a wide range of pending issues, including mass transit and super-highways, pesticides, public lands, endangered species, marine mammals, land use planning, environmental education, and U.S. support of the U.N. Environment Program.



WHAT DO BIRD WATCHERS DO ALL SUMMER?
Paul E. Bauer



After the hordes of warblers pass through St. Louis in late April and May, and the shorebirds have migrated north to nest on the Arctic tundra, what can birders do to enjoy their hobby during the warm St. Louis summers? Plenty. I could call these activities mini-adventures or special projects, but they all add up to birding fun.

During the last six or seven years, Dick Anderson and I have become personally involved in more and more of these special adventures, to the point where they now consume most of our year around birding efforts. Each individual project suggests many more exciting ideas that require additional study and planning. Some examples include: finding the northernmost nesting record for species that normally breed south of our area; intentionally seeking species rarely seen or never previously seen in Missouri, Illinois or within 50 miles of St. Louis; finding new birding areas of different habitat that can be combined into an ideal one-day census; conducting a specialized census; looking for typical birds out of season; etc.

Any area can be used to play these games, but St. Louis is blessed with rivers that channel migrants from the north in severe winters and during normal migration periods. Our area is uniquely located in a blending zone. We get eastern records for western species during migration, northern records for southern nesters, and southern records for northern species in winter.

This new love of birding activities started innocently enough with the bluebird census at Pickering's Sunny Ranch, and the once-a-year breeding bird census for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At Pickering's, a different family or group of school children go out once a week during the breeding season to count bluebird eggs and young in the 60 nest boxes. Last year 299 young bluebirds were added to the Missouri scene from Sunny Ranch. The U. S. breeding bird census is conducted by stopping each half-mile on a specifically selected route and counting all birds seen or heard during a 3 minute period. The census starts a half hour before dawn and the 50 stops are completed by 9:30 a.m. before the birds stop singing. The government uses this data sampled from many routes in all the states to detect early trends in changes of breeding populations of birds. Helpers are always needed for projects of the type.

The bluebird project has caused us to ask many questions. How many of the young bluebirds return to Pickering's to nest in following years? Do the same male and female mate for the second nesting each year? We are seeking permission to net and color band some of the bluebirds in order to explore these and other questions for this established flock.

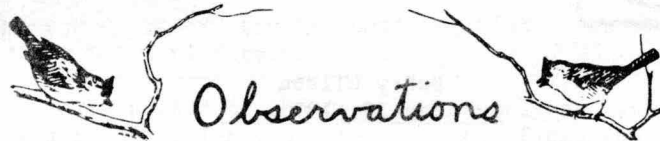
The U. S. breeding bird route that Dick and I have covered for a number of years is in Illinois. As a result we have discovered a number of new areas that are good for birding but never previously covered by St. Louis area people. We have purchased topographic maps to help in the search. Areas to the north on the rivers look attractive in winter. How many species of unusual sparrows are we missing in the Illinois farming areas to the northeast? The Lake Carlyle area is unexplored from a birding viewpoint. Over in Missouri, why is Hawk Point so named? Is it any good for hawks during migration? These are just some of the ideas we consider interesting to explore.

During the last two summers our unusual experiences with nesting least terns, Mississippi kite, and Swainson's warbler have been reported in earlier stories. Much of this interest ripened in a trip to Big Oak State Park deep in southeast Missouri. With the help of tape recorded sounds we found and photographed a Swainson's warbler. This was a life bird for me. The bird had been known to nest in Big Oak for years, but could it be found in Illinois or, better yet, within the 50 mile radius of St. Louis? Well, we now know the answer to this question. During July, Dick and Mitzi Anderson were exploring new birding spots in the levee area just north of Chester, Illinois. They stopped for lunch on an obscure dirt road when Dick heard the Swainson's song. Yes, the Swainson's does nest within the St. Louis birding area and many people went down and added this record to their respective life, Illinois and St. Louis area lists.

On another trip this summer we went to Kaskaskia State Park to get some photographs of Mississippi kites soaring above the Illinois bluffs. As we watched we wished we had several days to locate the nest. Later as we watched one bird swoop into a dead tree, I noticed the other bird sail into a nearby tree. I suddenly realized that there was the kite nest just 15 feet

from the road and 15 feet above a picnic table! We got some pictures of the nearly fullgrown bird in the nest, and true portraits of the sentinel bird in the dead tree (18 feet away with the 16 power lens.) This was a great thrill for me as a birder and as a photographer. Would you believe I used three rolls of film? On the way home, north of the park near Fults, Illinois, we saw another pair of kites which may be the most northern nesting kites in the Mississippi River valley. The fact that the sighting may have been a record increased the joy of watching these fantastic flyers in action.

All these activities plus trips to the levees and other areas for early shorebirds may give you some idea of the unusual birding fun that is possible during the summer around St. Louis.



ST. LOUIS AREA SPRING BIRDING

J. Earl Comfort

St. Louis Area 1973 spring birding was highlighted by the excellent warbler invasion in May when 37 species were listed. Rarest were Swainson's, black-throated blue, Cape May, Connecticut and pine warblers. The hooded warbler was found with relative ease compared with most other years. In addition there were a few confusing sightings of the hybrid Brewster's warbler, which is a cross between the blue-winged and golden-winged warblers. The song was usually that of its blue-winged parent.

Another highlight of the spring birding season was the St. Louis Audubon sponsored area big day, all day century run census on May 5th. Although the total count of 176 species for the day compiled by Earl Hath fell far short of last year's big day 191 kinds, it was an exciting day afield. Only the number of species counted; the individuals of each kind were ignored. Dick and Mitzi Anderson led the field of 9 groups with 131 species, followed by Jack Van Benthuyssen's 126 and the 119 by Kurt Wesseling Jr. and Kurt III. Best species of the day was an American avocet. There were 32 kinds of warblers.

Because of the disastrous area floods the spring shorebird migration was a flop in spite of such rarities as Hudsonian godwit, ruddy turnstone, sanderling and the avocet. There were 23 species of shorebirds, most of them appearing in May. Rarest area birds listed in the spring, in addition to those already mentioned were western kingbird and laughing gull.

There were 4 Audubon Society Spring Forest Park bird walks, 2 Audubon Shaw's Garden bird walks, and regular Audubon Arboretum nature hikes in Franklin County. In addition the Webster Groves Nature Study Society had many bird trips in the area during the spring season.

As of June 1st well over 250 kinds of birds had been sighted and listed within a radius of 50 miles from the city. Birding areas visited most often were Forest Park, the Arboretum and the August A. Busch Wildlife area in St. Charles County.

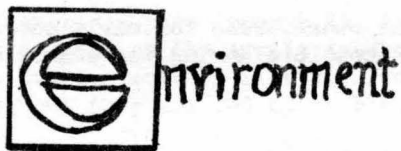
CAMPAIGN AGAINST STEEL TRAPS CONTINUES

Jeff Miller

The Campaign to Outlaw Steel Traps continues in Missouri and nationwide. Missourians are asked to express their views on the indiscriminate and inhumane device by writing The Honorable Christopher S. Bond, Governor, State Capitol, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101.

On a national level, citizens may write their Senators and Representatives to support the strongest of the four pieces of legislation now before Congress. H.R. 4712 introduced by Clarence Long (Md.), H.R. 5917 introduced by William Broomfield (Mich.) and S. 1742 introduced by Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (N.J.) would ban the sale of furs and leather from states and foreign countries which do not prohibit the manufacture, sale and use of steel leg-hold traps. S. 1637 introduced by Birch Bayh (Ind.) seeks to eliminate steel leg-hold traps and other painful sublethal devices used in capturing animals and birds.

Focus on the



Betty Wilson
May 29, 1973

STATE LEGISLATION

Important water clean-up legislation is being considered by the Missouri General Assembly as it begins its final two weeks of the session. SB321 (introduced by Senators Jones and Cason) will bring Missouri's law into compliance with the new Federal law. If this more stringent law is not passed, the State will lose much of its authority to regulate its water pollution control program. The Federal Government will step in instead. The State's Clean Water Commission should better understand Missouri's problems, and be better able to tailor its regulations to the needs and conditions of the State.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972 establishes a national system of permits to control waste water discharges by industries, municipalities and other point sources of pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency has established guidelines which must be followed by the individual state if it is to have the authority to issue discharge permits.

In Missouri we are required to make certain changes in our law in order that our Clean Water Commission may issue permits. The changes in general are good ones. Among the more important included in SB321 are:

1. Prohibiting Clean Water Commission membership to those who have "conflict of interest". It eliminates the provision that two of the six members of the Commission represent industry, mining or other polluting sources.
2. Increase in civil penalty to \$10,000 per day, and provision for criminal penalty.
3. Principle emphasis of enforcement on effluent regulation. This will allow the State to regulate pollution at its source rather than waiting for it to get into streams.
4. Authority to terminate or modify a permit.

The above changes in our law which, hopefully, will be enacted by the time this is in your hands, will give Missouri a stronger Water Pollution Control Law.

LAND USE

The new subject most important to environmentalists is land use. This awareness is based on recognition that land is a finite resource, not a commodity, and that its conservation by wise management is necessary to benefit a wide range of public interest needs. While our population grows, our supply of land remains constant.

It has been estimated that only 3 percent of the nation's land is used for urban purposes, but pressure for development will increase. To what extent should that development impinge upon the nation's cropland and grazing land (58%), forest land (22%), parklands and public installations (5%), and the remaining desert, swamp, tundra, and other lands (12%)?

The city dweller expresses an ever-increasing need for outdoor recreation and open space. Our dwindling open beaches and our crowded park areas demonstrate the impact of the population on land and natural beauty. The National Park System recorded 79-million visitors in 1960, 121-million in 1965, and 186-million in 1971!

It is becoming clear that many land use decisions have more than local consequences. Therefore, some states are adopting land use policies and regulations. Missouri has almost no such laws. There are a number of examples that demonstrate the need for State attention.

Reports from a Forest Survey conducted by the U.S. Forest Service indicate that Missouri has lost more than a million acres of forest land during the last decade, primarily to pasture conversion by bulldozing and aerial spraying. The loss to the public welfare through this conversion of private forest lands is very great. The values of forest land include watershed protection, wildlife production, scenic beauty, recreational uses, and the environmental values of air purification and noise absorption.

Lacking an overall land use policy, the Missouri Legislature should give its attention to revising the obsolete Missouri Forestry Act.

June 21 - SB321 was finally passed by the General Assembly on June 15, 1973. As a result, the State has a more effective law with realistic fines and enforcement procedures.



EASTER IN GREECE
Emily L. Norcross



What an Hellenic Christmas bird count would be I do not know, but I do know the count of a Greek Orthodox Easter. At least, our count! Birds may, alas, be scarce in Greece, more in the pot than in the bush, but in April as they migrate from Africa and the southern Mediterranean to northern Europe, the mainland and islands of Greece provide resting areas for many species. We totaled 160 in a recent countryside tour.

Countryside it was. Days were spent on Mt. Hymettus, Mt. Parnis, Mt. Parnassus. On Crete we picnicked in the Valley of the Windmills, and on the beaches south of Psestos. While at Rhodes we birded in river estuaries as well as among the ruins of Lindos. We botanized on the cliffs of Meteora which are crowned by Byzantine monasteries. We walked through barnyards on the borders of Yugoslavia to see storks on their nests. And at remote Lake Prespa, where Greece touches Albania, saw flocks of Dalmatian pelicans, spoonbills and herons in their nesting grounds.

The wheatear, the rock bunting, the stonechat and serin finch, these are our new friends. We saw them in olive groves and among Ionic ruins. Swallows and martins flew dizzily around the Acropolis of Athens. Rock doves cooed from Delphi's truncated columns. On the plains of Marathon the bittern and the egret emerged from hiding in the reeds of a marsh.

We were a party of twenty-two, guided, taught and frequently spoon fed by five indomitable, learned and delightful leaders. If we did not know that *euphorbia veneta* was the yellow plant growing profusely in the Agora, that the small wax-red flower in the garden of the exquisite Kaisariani monastery was *ranunculus asiaticus*, that the lesser kestrel has the bluer head, we know it now! We also had the privilege of being entertained by members of several conservation societies, and learned what efforts these dedicated and concerned Greek people are now making to preserve their natural heritage. Laws are at long last being enacted against shooting birds in the nesting season. A volunteer reforestation program has resulted in the planting of over two million trees on the slopes of Mt. Hymettus at Athens.

Combining archeology with ornithology and botany is not hard to do in Greece in spring. A red poppy (*papaver rhoeas*) growing through a crack of Pentelic marble of the Parthenon, a small yellow lily (*galea arvensis*) blooming at the home of the Muses on Mt. Parnassus, the little owl (*athene noctua*) posing on an almond tree in Alexander's Macedonia, a skylark (*alauda arvensis*) soaring above a crumbled Minoan palace, these are the indelible pictures we bring back from Greece in April. A temple, a flower, and a bird - and a black-robed priest marching with a lighted candle in a village procession the night of Good Friday.

** Some 40 TV stations across the country are currently showing Audubon Wildlife Films. New Audubon TV spots are in progress and work has begun on a 27-minute film about the activities and purposes of the Society.

ADVENTURE IN SEEING

Lee F. Mason

Add together more than 150 years of combined photographic experience; a manual full of tips and myriad things learned about photography through that experience; two evenings of indoor instruction; two weather-perfect field days for learning-by-doing, and you have a thumbnail idea of what eight of the St. Louis area's professional best offered the participants in the fourth annual Nature Photography Workshop of the St. Louis Audubon Society. 143 persons participated in some phase of the 4-session presentation, and many in all four seminars.

During the first indoor session held at the main auditorium of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters there was a showing of slides giving a sampling of the photographic approach of each of the eight instructors. In a brief "fashion show" each instructor displayed his favorite togs for in-the-field photography, giving reasons for all the pockets, straps, aprons, etc. A basic nature photography set-up, utilizing minimum equipment, was shown and explained. Following this, each instructor displayed a setup of his favored nature photography equipment, and the workshop enrollees were invited to inspect the various setups and ask questions. During the second indoor session each instructor showed a series of his own slides, explaining exactly how and why each picture was taken. George and Millie Blaha presented a slide show and commentary on "A Year at Sunny Ranch," which illustrated the very best in nature photography and how to tell a story with pictures.

The first field outing (April 28) at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Arboretum & Nature Reserve was a bright day that coaxed out a profusion of wild flowers. Glades and slopes were carpeted with paintbrush, yellow and white stargrass, bird's-foot violets (lineariloba and pedata), bluets, puccoon, and the shooting star was never more beautiful! The trees and shrubs had not yet greatly expanded their leaves and the woods were bright with forest flowers. Most abundant were bluebells, white violets, Dutchman's breeches, Jacob's ladder, corydalis, wake robia, anemone, Solomon's seal, spring beauty, wild ginger, and phlox.

The long-awaited sunshine warming the moist soil brought out armies of crawling insects and hosts of flying bugs for the super-closeup enthusiasts. Amphibians and reptiles lazily basked in the sunbeams and made cooperative subjects for the photographers. George and Millie Blaha, Jim and Keith Jackson, and Tom Brooks guided and advised their various special interest groups looking for specific nature subjects to photograph. Ed and Lee Mason instructed those interested in the basics of nature photography, then put the photographers to using the information. For the "birders" Walter Liddell demonstrated special tricks in approaching and photographing the feathered wild. His customized 600mm telephoto lens mounted on a gunstock was of much interest to the advanced bird photographers. Those new to this specialized field of photography were shown the best ways to use the equipment they had. Although for best results wildlife photography should be an individual pursuit, the birds were fairly cooperative. Among numerous warblers the most distinctive spotted was the orange-crowned. Rat-a-tatting red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers had the shutterbugs homing in on them. A pair of blue-gray gnatcatchers - 4" replicas of a mockingbird - were decorating their knoblike nest with lichens. A tail-pumping towhee in flight close to the ground had some photographers scrambling through shrubbery and brush. A pair of meadowlarks near the reservoir were special camera subjects because of the good light in the open field. Jim Jackson's snakes proved good subjects even though they slithered back and forth along the lower branch of a sapling, quite confused by all the clicking of shutters and stares of dozens of shiny lens eyes.

The second field trip (Saturday, May 5) at Sunny Ranch was the most memorable session. The day was fine, the temperature just right, and rain the night before had the vegetation at its best. 125 participants, dividing into specific interest photography groups led by the eight instructors, scattered over the fields, meadows, forests, and wandered around the ponds, lakes, and streams of Burrell and Ruby Pickering's fabulous 500 acre nature preserve.

For the "flower flickers" there were penstemon, cinquefoil, wild geranium, ginger, May-apple, anemone, spring beauty, trout lily, a variety of violets, and the most photographed flower of the day - the resplendent yellow lady's slipper orchid - growing near the picnic grounds.

British soldiers, pyxie cups, and reindeer lichens invited closeups. Many of the dozen ferns in the preserve, and especially the walking fern, were a pattern and light challenge to the photographers. Turtles, lizards, and skinks all had their turn as photographic models, and a moss-green bullfrog floating full-outstretched near the bank of a small pond kept a wary eye on the closing-in cameras and leaped to the center of the pool with a kerplunk just as several of the photographers had him "filling the frame!" Along a lower woods trail a trio of white-tailed deer stood motionless in bowered protection and watched the camera toters moving along the path. The extensive nature knowledge of Naturalists Peg Feigley and Lillian Nagel was a real "topping" at the field days. They quickly identified every subject falling under the lenses of the photographers.

While Warren Lammert and Walter Liddell instructed their bird photographers on some fine points of in-the-field wildlife photography, cooperative downy and hairy woodpeckers, several species of warblers, a rose-breasted grosbeak and a yellow-billed cuckoo showed themselves. A summer tanager warbled its Robinlike song from the trees bordering the bluebird trail. The bluebird boxes had nests in all stages, from eggs to fledglings. At the well-stocked suet rack and grain pan near the Pickering home Ed and Lee Mason were able to demonstrate their "remote control, feeder-lured" bird photography which they employ to produce slides for illustrated lectures on attracting wild birds to urban yards and gardens.

A young raccoon, placed at Sunny Ranch by the Humane Society of Missouri for rehabilitation to the wild, was probably the most photographed smaller mammal. But the "star" models, undoubtedly, were Dick Grossenheider's wolves and coyotes. Under George Winkler's expert animal handling the photographers had the rare opportunity of getting portrait shots of these magnificent beasts. Dick, widely acclaimed St. Louis artist, has special permission to keep these once numerous wild animals in captivity to use as models for his exquisite paintings. The Pickering's house and tenderly care for these fine specimens that were so much the sight and sound of the days when the Midwest and West were "wild."

The 4-session workshop closed with an excellent roast beef dinner at the '76 Restaurant near Foristell, Missouri. In the rolls and rolls of film exposed by the workshop participants there should be some fine entries for the First St. Louis Audubon Society Nature Photography Contest. Rules of the contest were published in past issues of the Bulletin, or call 427-6311 for information. Unveiling of 11 inch by 14 inch prints of the winning entries, showing of the original winning slides, and the runner-up entries, will be presented to Audubon members and the general public at the main auditorium of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, at 8:00 p.m., October 2, 1973. Thereafter the winning prints will go on exhibit tour in and around the Metropolitan St. Louis area. Exhibit locations will be announced in future Bulletins and in the St. Louis area newspapers. Be sure to reserve the evening of October 2, 1973, and join us for an "Adventure in Seeing!"



PHOTOGRAPHERS' SPECIALS!

With so many requests for a year-round program for photographers, the Society plans to sponsor a "Photographers' Walk" once a month from March through October, and an indoor meeting for November, January, and February.

Various Nature Photography Workshop instructors will be on each Photography Walk, ready to advise and assist photographers. Authorities on nature lore will be along to identify subjects being photographed. Indoor meetings will be flexible to give the photographers what they want. More about the proposed first indoor meeting in November will appear in a later Bulletin. Attend the Photography Walks and let the instructors know what you would like to get out of the photography sessions.

Now scheduled are Photography Walks for July 15, August 5, and September 16. October 2 will be a very special indoor photography event - the unveiling of the winning prints in the First Nature Photography Contest of the St. Louis Audubon Society, and the showing of runner-up slides and other entries.



REPORT FROM NEW GUINEA

Mary C. Wiese
(Excerpts from letters
continued from
March Bulletin)



August 15, Kundiawa, New Guinea
It's now 5 a.m. We eat breakfast at 6 and leave at 7 for the daylong drive to Mt. Hagen. Once again it's less than 100 miles but will be daylong because of the twisty roads and stops for village visiting and bird looking. I must tell you about our driver, Vincent, who looks like a young tall Haile Selassie. If I understand him correctly, he is the eldest of 27 sons of chief Kondom Aguando who was the great leader of the Chimbu people. There were only four girls apparently, and one wonders about infant exposure of females. We drove past Kondom's grave when we went out to the singsing. A sign reads in Pidgin: "Matmat (grave) bilong Kondom Aguando. Em bigman bilong Chimbu bifo." His son told us that he had had forty wives (and only thirty-one children?), but before he was killed in an automobile accident at age fifty ("him seen 50 Krismas") he had gotten rid of most of them and only left nine widows. Our guidebook devotes a page to him and he must have been a remarkable man who made the conscious transition for himself and his people in one generation from bush superstition and clan warfare to modern organization and a nominal Catholicism. But here was this man's son - our driver! We learned later that he had been a teacher, but couldn't make as much money at it as at being a tour guide. Same old problem. There was no question of the respect the Chimbu villagers had for him. Vincent is not a chief, however. That position is by election rather than inheritance and he had pretty much left the clan.

10 p.m. August 15, Mt. Hagen, N. G.

Arrived here late this afternoon after another dusty but intensely interesting ride. The drouth is even worse in this area. I can best put today's experiences in the form of a series of notes. I make jottings as we go along or I would never remember it all.

1. I know why we see so many croton plants growing in the native gardens. They're not only for beauty but they also supply the multi-colored leaves for the arsegras. What simpler way to dress than just to tie a fresh bunch of leaves around your waist each morning?
2. Today I saw a phenomenon about which I had been told, but simply couldn't believe; several women with pendulous breasts, one much longer than the other. The story is that they use one to nurse the ailing baby pigs.
3. We saw several scantily dressed roadworkers early this morning and our chief-son guide greeted them fondly. They were our awe-inspiring dancers of yesterday now back to everyday life. No wonder they love the singsings and their costumes.
4. Have I written about coffee? It is the cash crop of the district whether it is a matter of large plantations or a few trees and a shelling mill standing in the yard. Everywhere you see the beans spread out on mats to dry. This Highland coffee ripens a few beans at a time and must always be carefully handpicked. We visited a big plantation, Nondugl, en route today. This once belonged to Sir Edward Hallstrom, famous in the area for introducing sheep and other new agricultural products, and also because he made a big collection of birds of paradise. Some of them are now breeding in big flying cages. The most remarkable bird we saw was not a bird of paradise but Gaura Victoria, the huge crowned pigeon. It looks like a bright blue turkey with a lacy crown on his head. The topknot turns up often in the dance headdresses and the birds have become very rare in the wild.
5. We saw several other interesting plants including tea in the higher elevations, and peanuts which they eat without roasting. Especially exotic was a funny looking red fruit like a large juicy ear of corn. It's called Marita or Sauce-fruit and is supposed to taste like tomato catsup. It often figures in the puberty ceremonies for the boys since in many clans they are not allowed to eat it until they have been initiated. It probably has some association with blood or fertility.
6. In one schoolyard there was a great gathering of people in front of a man at a desk, set out in the yard. He was a tax collector and they had come in to pay their yearly head tax, eight dollars per man and one dollar per woman in that district. In Chimbu, Vincent proudly informed us, the tax is higher because the district is more prosperous, ten dollars per man and two dollars per woman. The government has done an amazing job of getting in touch with every person in New Guinea, no matter how far back in the bush they live. They've gone on foot and used boats and helicopters, but there are still some pockets of people, particularly in the swamp areas, who are unreached. Eleanor and I learned some of this when we talked to the political officer in Kundiawa yesterday. He's a very attractive New Zealander who's not so sure what his status will be if autonomy comes.

7. This morning before we left Kundiawa we had an earthquake. No thrills omitted on this trip! It lasted about thirty seconds and was considered to be above average intensity, although there was no damage where we were. The manager at Nondugl said that he was standing on a concrete floor that seemed to undulate, but was undamaged after the shocks were over. I've been reading a book by Gilliard on birds of paradise which says that geologically New Guinea is very young, only 2,000,000 years old, hence the many landslides and quakes. One nice sentence, "The island of New Guinea lists like a floundering ship." The north coast is rising and the south drowning, hence the huge swamps in that area. Relatively recently there was a severe volcanic eruption east of here when the whole top of Mt. Lamington blew off, killing nearly three thousand people.

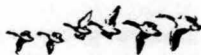
8. The Big War keeps turning up. Co-owner of our Chimbu Lodge was Commander Paul Mason. He was a planter on Bougainville, the first island on the northwest part of the Solomons chain which commands the channel which came to be known as the Slot because ships and planes went through it down to Guadalcanal. When the Japs came he escaped into the jungle and became a Coast Watcher, giving warning of Japanese military movements and personally killing 200 of the enemy. There was an article about him in the South Pacific Magazine and a reproduction of his portrait which hangs in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. He still looks like a very tough guy with broad shoulders, rumpled gray hair - and a pince-nez.

3:35 p.m. August 16, God knows where!

Well, I've started letters to you in a variety of places and times, but this is a new one. Our bus has finally broken down (some kind of a bolt off of something) and we are sitting on a mountainside someplace between Mt. Hagen and Wapa-something where we're supposed to take a plane to fly past a bad stretch of the road to Wabag. It's really a miracle that this hasn't happened before considering the roads we go over, but something will happen to take care of the situation and nobody is too shook up. Everybody in the group is usually pretty sporting about the minor crises and there have been plenty of those, mostly because of the original foul-up on reservations which has continued to plague us.

Something did happen in the shape of a young Lutheran missionary from St. Paul's Mission at Wapamunda. It turns out that all that was needed was a wrench which our slightly slaphappy driver (a new one, not Vincent) didn't have. The missionary used his wrench very efficiently and off we went.

Next crisis. They're digging for a waterline smack across the airport at Wapamunda and no planes are taking off. So now what? All solved. With a police escort we drove up to the very steep, muddy section of road under construction. All work stopped and a heavy duty Caterpillar tractor was attached to the front of the bus. Finally with all the road crew cheering us we moved on up the hill in slow regal procession. It was really a case of mountain succumbing to Mahomet.



A PERFECT PICNIC DAY

Ruby and Burrell Pickering welcomed 110 guests at the annual spring picnic of the St. Louis Audubon Society on Sunday, May 20.

A combination of perfect weather, many wildflowers, birds and numerous wild animals afforded members an outstanding day of exploring nature trails. Leaders of the Nature Workshops were Ernestine and Marshall Magner, Jane Stuessie, Bill Brush, Louis Brenner, George Winkler, Jim Sullivan, Bob Herndon, Lee and Ed Mason, Dick Grossenheider, Earl Hath, Kurt Wesseling and George VanBenthuyzen.

Sincere thanks and appreciation are due Burrell and Ruby Pickering, not only for this delightful day, but for the thought, time and careful planning that has gone into the establishment of this private nature sanctuary.

1973-74 WILDLIFE FILM SERIES DATES ANNOUNCED

The St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society will again offer the Wildlife Film Series free of charge to the general public. The first film will be shown on Friday, September 28. The other programs will be offered on October 19, November 16, February 1 and March 8. Folders giving full details of titles and names of the photographer-naturalists who will narrate the full-color nature films will be mailed at a later date.

ALERT

The Corps of Engineers is having a hearing on the L-15 LEVEE at Portage Des Sioux on Thursday evening, July 19. Call the Coalition for the Environment office 535-3220 for details and coordination of testimony.

calendar



July 15, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. ST. LOUIS AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY WALK - West Tyson Park. Meet at picnic area just inside park entrance at Times Beach Exit on I-44. Bring lunch.

August 5, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. ST. LOUIS AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY WALK - Rockwoods Reservation. Meet at Headquarters Building. Bring lunch.

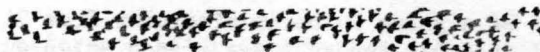
Sept. 16, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. ST. LOUIS AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY WALK - The Arboretum, Gray Summit, Missouri. Meet on parking lot inside main gate. Bring lunch.

Sept. 28, Friday, 8:15 p.m. AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road.

Oct. 2, Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP PRIZE AWARD SHOW. St. Louis County Library - 1640 S. Lindbergh.

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY Midweek birding trips will continue as usual. For information on Wednesday trips call Sallie Phillips- 821-2216. For Thursday trips - Helen Bowman- 531-1748 or Rose Ann Bodman- 961-2583.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON NATURE WALKS at the Shaw's Garden Arboretum will resume in September, on Saturday the 15th and on Sunday the 30th. For further information call Earl Hath- 965-8642.



ST. LOUIS AUDUBON FIRST ANNUAL DINNER

The Audubon Dinner May 22, was an occasion for mixed emotions: pleasure that so many of our members were there, regret that it was oversubscribed so some reservations had to be refused; delight in the always interesting film presentation of the Leonard Halls (this time on Ozark Wildflowers), distress that some people had a poor view because of the large crowd; and above all, gratification in the many tributes for our retiring president, Earl Hath, but sorrow at reaching the end of a term of office for one who has served us so faithfully.

Elizabeth Golterman and Harry Giessow, honorary board members, spoke for all of us. Miss Golterman presented Mr. Hath with a painting of a white-footed mouse by Dick Grossenheider as a gift from the Board of Directors and Mr. Giessow read the words of a plaque given to Mr. Hath by the whole membership. There were also words of appreciation and a gift book for Connie Hath who served so ably as our secretary.

As part of the meeting the following new officers were introduced.

J. Marshall Magner, President
Leo Drey, 1st Vice President
Gary Giessow, 2nd Vice President
Edgar Denison, 3rd Vice President
Mrs. Gerome Chambers, Secretary
Mrs. Joel Massie, Treasurer

Board members with dates terms expire are as follows:

1974

Louis Brenner
William Brush
Mrs. Eleanore Nelson
Edward Ortleb
Mrs. William Wiese
Jack Van Benthuyzen
John B. Gunter

1975

George Billy III
Miss Mabel Boss
Mrs. Edward F. Mason
Miss Sharon Miller
Mrs. Hiram Norcross, Jr.
Dr. Mildred Trotter
Kurt P. Wesseling, Jr.
Mrs. Edwin F. Stuessie

1976

Earl H. Hath
Mrs. Earl H. Hath
Mrs. Warren Lammert
Donald M. Menke
Father James Mulligan
Jay G. Rice
Martin Schweig, Jr.
Mrs. J. Russell Wilson